

Local Personalities Help ASN Celebrate 10 Years



City of Edmonton councillor Michael Walters with vendor Darin Charlet.

Photo by Eric Rice

Celebrity Sale-a-thon

By Eric Rice

On Thursday November 14 a number of local media personalities and politicians helped ASN celebrate its 10th anniversary by taking to the streets of Edmonton to sell Alberta Street News along with some established vendors from Edmonton and Calgary.

Alberta Street News wants to send out a heartfelt "Thank You!" to Mark Connolly and Portia Clark of CBC Radio, City of Edmonton Councillor Michael Walters, Rob Pearson, Constituency Manager for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood and Edmonton-Strathcona MLA Rachel Notley. We value your support and the friendship you've shown for our vendors!

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Christmas greetings from Alberta Street News

By Linda Dumont,
Managing Editor

We at Alberta Street News extend Christmas greetings to all of you who support the paper and our vendors this Christmas season and throughout the year. Your support is very important to us. While many of our vendors have limited incomes from welfare, disability pension or sporadic or part time employment, others have no income at all other than what they earn from paper sales. About one third of our Edmonton vendors are homeless.

snoring, cursing, speaking, tossing and turning. You have to leave early in the morning and walk to find another warm place to stay until that door, too, is closed. There is always walking from place to place, carrying your belongings in a back-pack or pushing a shopping cart. Make a difference to someone this Christmas. The most important gifts are those you can make in person, blessing someone with showing your care. But you can also give to the charity of your choice.

When you pass a panhandler on the street, remember he is your neighbour. Who among us would willingly go out to the cold street and stand for hours asking for money, facing rejections, unless driven by need? How can we judge that need even if it is for a bottle to make the pain of life more bearable or to ward off the next life threatening hangover?

If you have nothing else to give, give a greeting and a smile. **Give this Christmas.** We, at Alberta Street News, would like to give gift cards to our vendors this Christmas. If you would like to donate towards the purchase of gift cards, or to purchase cards and donate them, contact Linda at 780-428-0805 or send your donation to Edmonton Street News Society, 9533-106A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 0S9.

I have also been going on the street to work with the House of Refuge Mission when I am able to. We need donations of warm clothing and blankets for the homeless so we can give them out on the street. These can be dropped off at where we are serving on the parking area in front of Edmonton Cash Register at 10330-95 Street between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. any evening, or call Linda at 780-428-0805 to arrange another time.

Imagine what life is like for those who are homeless – there is no place to keep your belongings so things are lost and stolen, there is no open door when you need to use a washroom, there are line-ups for meals, for a drop-in to warm up, for a bed at the shelter. Often you are standing outside waiting. At the shelter you are given ear plugs so you can sleep amidst the noise of the many others in the room –

House of Refuge Mission continues work in a welcoming community

By Linda Dumont

Just one day before the House of Refuge Mission, commonly called the Lighthouse on the street, was levelled by fire on October 19, a letter of complaint was received on behalf of the tenants of the YMCA Melcor Welcome Centre apartments. This was not the first complaint since the apartment complex opened in September.

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Canada

We acknowledge the financial support
of the Government of Canada
Periodical Fund of the Department of
Canadian Heritage

ALBERTA STREET NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 10, 2013

Alberta Street News is an independent
publication produced by volunteers and
sold by vendors on the street

Managing Editor: Linda Dumont

Assistant editor: Allan Sheppard

Design and Layout: Rhonda Masuskapoe
& Josh Posty

Writers: Andie W.L., Allan Sheppard, Eric Rice, Linda
Dumont, Rory Gaudon, Timothy Wild, Angelique
Branton, Maria B., Ryan Robertson, Robert
Champion, Sharon Austin, John Zapantis, Alex
Pswarayi

Photos: Andie W.L., Linda Dumont, Eric Rice, John
Zapantis, Heather Fernhout

Cartoon: Ian Stacey, Florida

Advertising: John Grundy - 587 709-0360

*Deadline for January issue – December 10, 2013.
Opinions expressed are those of the writers*

Alberta Street News
dumontlc@hotmail.com | 780 420-0805
9533-106A Avenue | Edmonton, Alberta | T5H 0S9
albertastreetnews.org



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Newspaper
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Association and of the International
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On Personal Responsibility (4)

Colonialism is a good word and bad behaviour: Let's use it admit it

By Allan Sheppard

[Fourth in a series of columns on notions of personal responsibility as applied by some individuals and political leaders to First Nations/Aboriginal/Indigenous peoples; the third prompted by a July 2013 Calgary Herald column by Naomi Lakritz: Colonialism didn't cause Phoenix Sinclair's death (tinyurl.com/oqv6cka).]

INaomi Lakritz believes First Nations/Aboriginal/Indigenous (FNAI) communities are the cause of, and the only solution to, their dysfunction. They can blame only themselves for their miseries. Many Canadians agree. Lakritz draws polemical inspiration from Jay Funke, lawyer for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the Southern Chiefs Association. At an inquiry into the 2005 death of Phoenix Sinclair, Funke said FNAI leaders see Canadian colonialism in the child's death.

Lakritz's responds:

That's odd. All the colonials I know had the same reaction when they heard of the terrible abuse [Phoenix's mother Samantha] Kematch and [Kematch's boyfriend Wesley Karl] McKay inflicted on this poor child, including beatings, shooting her with a BB gun, choking her till she was unconscious, forcing her to eat her own vomit and leaving her to die on a cold basement floor, eight years ago. That reaction was: "I wish I could have adopted her and loved her and saved her life."

If only child welfare agencies could operate like the SPCA. If only there were shelters for neglected or unwanted FNAI children; good-hearted non-FNAIs could adopt them, like rescue pets, and make themselves happy and the children useful. I have fostered, adopted, and maintained long-term relationships with Aboriginal children from care; trust me, it's not that easy. There are few fairy-tale endings, unqualified rescues or quick fixes.

Children given up at birth, before bonding with their mothers, can enjoy successful adoptions if chosen by good parents; I have personal experience of such a case. But children apprehended after bonding, and the parents who foster or adopt them face greater challenges with fewer successful outcomes; I have experience of such cases, too.

It's not just a matter of broken bonds. The consequences of programs designed to destroy the continuity of parenting culture, heritage and traditional practices in FNAI communities are also involved; programs that impose institutional methods of child-rearing—first in residential schools, now in group homes—or theoretically kinder and gentler fostering and adoption. The

result: vulnerable children forcefully alienated from parents, families, communities, and cultures—and from themselves.

Government programs that aim and succeed at alienating and deracinating children are colonialist. Racist too: they treat children based on what they are, not on what they do.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized for Canada's residential schools in June 2008. He said

Two primary objectives of the residential school system were to remove and isolate children from the influence of their homes, families, traditions and cultures, and to assimilate them into the dominant culture. These objectives were based on the assumption Aboriginal cultures and spiritual beliefs were inferior and unequal. Indeed, some sought, as it was infamously said, "to kill the Indian in the child." (tinyurl.com/c3u7fvy)

The c-word never crosses Harper's lips, but those words neatly describe colonialism as cultural assimilation.

As for economic and geographic assimilation, the Harper's hostile rejection of FNAI claims to land and territorial jurisdiction makes his concession that "the policy of assimilation was wrong, has caused great harm, and has no place in our country" hollow and insincere.

That fact that Lakritz and others don't accept even the half-truth of Harper's begrudging concession shows how effectively the Harper government (following nearly all previous federal governments) has used communications counter spin to undo his admission. We have destroyed the viability of FNAI cultures and the sustainability of their communities and economies; but not really.

No one—not me; not, I am certain, Jay Funke, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, and the Southern Chiefs Association—condones the behaviour of Kematch and McKay. But we must explain it frankly, so we can work together for solutions on a clean foundation.

Most FNAI citizens are one or more generations removed from direct experience of residential schools, but they still suffer the consequences; the colonial sins of our founding fathers and their heirs have been visited unto third and fourth generations, with no end in sight.

Kematch and McKay have been held accountable in the courts. Whatever the reason, they did the crime; they are doing the time. They were not excused. But it is wrongheaded to hold them solely responsible for the circumstances that led to their crime; circumstances beyond their control as children and youths; circumstances that arguably contributed to the state in which they and their household found themselves when Phoenix died.

The National Post's Christie Blatchford rightly calls Winnipeg's welfare system to account: At Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry, Winnipeg Child Services agency shows it is best at looking after itself (tinyurl.com/n8a7vd8); Cross-examination of Phoenix Sinclair caretaker makes child-welfare agencies look like

CONTINUED

House of Refuge Mission Continues Work in a Welcoming Community

bullies (tinyurl.com/k3j2ohf).

Federal and provincial governments are also responsible. Coverage of a 2011 Ontario government report by John Beaucage (First Nations children still taken from their parents, tinyurl.com/km685qd) notes that FNAI communities make up two per cent of Canada's population but provide 10 to 20 per cent of children in care. There are more FNAI children in care now than at the height of the residential school system.

The number of non-FNAI children in care began to go down in the 1970s, when governments started supporting parents to keep children at home rather than apprehending them. That policy was never applied to FNAI families; the preferred option for them was and is apprehension. There are now some exceptions; not many.

Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, explains why: "First Nations children in trouble (are) sent routinely into care because that's where the funding is"; money does not go "to help families deal with their problems."

That may not sound like colonialism to Naomi Lakritz, but it does to me: the rest of the population at risk can be trusted, with support, to manage money received to keep their families together; FNAI families cannot; they stereotypically waste welfare on booze, drugs, cigarettes, and junk food.

The "I'm all right, Jack, pull up the ladder" sense of self-righteousness of Lakritz and others—of all who stand by and do nothing—is shameful. We know victims of violence and injustice must rely on their own determination and efforts to rise above misfortune; they are the only ones who can choose to heal themselves. Lakritz is right on that point; but she is absolutely, blindly wrong to argue that we and our governments do not weigh down FNAI victims with colonial attitudes and behaviours to a degree that many of them cannot rise up as they otherwise might. And should.

Colonialism is not a bad word. It accurately describes what we do. It's what we do that is shameful.



Pastor Glen Davis preaches from the steps of Edmonton Cash Register.

Photo by Linda Dumont

By Linda Dumont

The House of Refuge had been serving meals and preaching the gospel to the poor from the location across the street from the complex at 10339-95th Street for ten years before the apartments were constructed. When the location for the apartment building was chosen, it was with full knowledge of the neighbourhood their "vulnerable" tenants would be moving into, a neighbourhood already home to an even more vulnerable local population.

In view of this fact, and the type of "vulnerable" population that they are housing, why, when they knew the neighbourhood, did the YMCA select it for their tenants? It is probably safe to speculate that their population might be found unwelcome in some neighbourhoods of the city, such as perhaps Terwilliger or Riverbend. Instead they chose to build in a welcoming community that already has an extensive network of supports and services for those who need them, and which is home for many to many

other vulnerable people. Among these, within a two block radius of the Melcor Centre, there are four People in Need Shelters for persons coming out of the mental hospital, there are Native Counselling's Cunningham Place and a Salvation Army residence for recovering addicts and alcoholics, Operation Friendship and a Chinese complex for seniors, Urban Manor for older male alcoholics, Martyshuck housing for alcoholics and addicts, Ashton Towers, Inner City Housing, and Our Place, a group home for women, as well as Dr. Peter Akai's house for persons living with HIV. Just a little further away are the Bissell Centre and The Mustard Seed, the Boyle McCauley Health Centre, Excel Manor, a group home, and my home where Alberta Street News is published and distributed.. The writer, Judy Downey, Supervisor, Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board City of Edmonton, Nova Plaza, says:

"Dale and I attended the social this evening at the YMCA Melcor Welcome Centre. There are a number of tenant concerns respecting their safety due to behaviours of patrons of the Lighthouse. I understand from the tenants that the Lighthouse provides meals to those living in poverty. The Welcome Village tenants clarified that they are not concerned with their safety inside the building, however, tenants report that the City owned park / green space in the development is littered with spent needles, crack pipes and other drug paraphernalia. One mother was very alarmed when her two year old daughter picked up a spent needle.

Tenants were very vocal about Lighthouse patrons that are dealing, cooking and / or taking drugs outside the Lighthouse and on YMCA and City property within the development; sex trade workers are working in the area; tenants are intimidated / afraid

of aggressive panhandlers; and Lighthouse patrons are camping out in the alley adjacent to the Lighthouse and on or about the green space in the B-R development. These activities are taking place on a daily basis throughout the day and night resulting in noise and safety concerns for the tenants. There is a vulnerable population residing at the YMCA; some tenants reported that they are afraid to leave the building due to the aforementioned issues. Parents are concerned that their children are being subjected to these activities. Tenants also stated that they are unable to exit public transit at the stop closest to the residence; they stay on the #5 bus and go around the block to avoid confrontations with Lighthouse patrons. Several tenants have physical challenges, and this is very inconvenient for them. I would like to coordinate resources from our collaboration with EPS, City, and community partners to begin to address the tenants' concerns from a multi-agency approach to provide a safer environment for the current tenants and the seniors that will soon be living in the Métis Capital Housing development. Tenants qualified their concerns by stating that they are very pleased and appreciative to have such great accommodations at the Centre, and hope that the City will help them re the safety and quality of life issues.

Regards, Judy Downey "

Kate Quinn, executive director of the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) said, "It can be challenging to build positive relationships among neighbours especially where people seem different from ourselves. It could help for the mission and Melcor Welcome Complex, the City staff, the community league and others to work together on a 'get to know your neighbour event' to look for ways to build neighbourliness and to decrease fear."

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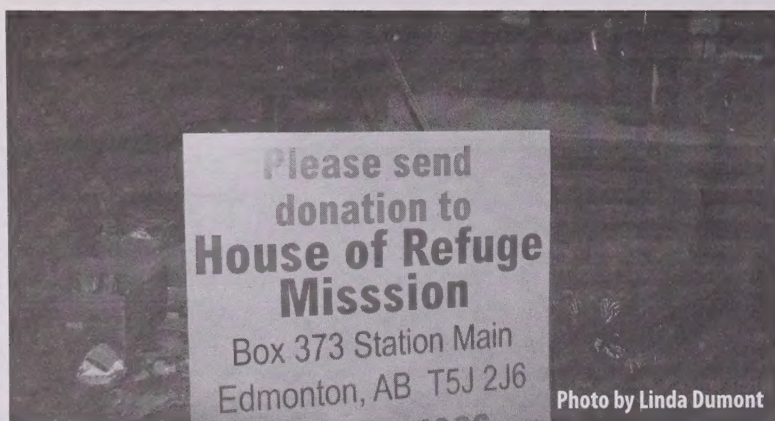


Photo by Linda Dumont

Food is served every evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the parking areas in front of Edmonton Cash Register.

The supposed problem with the "Lighthouse", however, was partially solved by the fire, which has left the street population who frequented the House of Refuge desolate. The fire inspector determined that the cause was probably electrical, as it started in the area near the washrooms. A second fire on November 1st, leveled the rest of the building.

The people who used the services provided by the House of Refuge are devastated by the fire. Shortly after the fire, a small group was observed weeping openly at the loss. They were welcomed in whatever state they were in, even while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and received a hot meal, clothing, blankets, and personal care items. The drop in was open between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. during the time between the closure of some of the other drop-ins and the opening of the overnight shelters at the Hope Mission and the George Spady Centre. And the mission was open 365 days of the year, even on statutory holidays and weekends.

The board of the mission and special guests including the owner of the burned building, Thym Choy, met on October 22 to discuss strategies for the future of the House of Refuge Mission. As a temporary measure until another

building can be found that can be leased or purchased, food is being served outside on the parking area of Edmonton Cash Register, Choy's place of business. Bill Buck, president of the board, has been out every evening since then, often with the help of Bob Vandergrift, and other volunteers, but due to the cold, not many people are coming for food.

Whether the loss of the House of Refuge will change the neighbourhood for the people of Melcor Welcome Centre is questionable. In addition to the many residences for other vulnerable people, homeless people are still camping out by the house next door to the site of the former House of Refuge, and in the alleys, and using the green spaces in the area as this is still their home neighbourhood.

It is always the most vulnerable whose needs are pushed aside to make way for change, and these include the tenants of YMCA Melcor Welcome Centre as well the persons left desolate by the fire. Donations of warm clothing and blankets are needed. These can be dropped off at Edmonton Cash Register any evening, or arrangements can be made by calling Linda at 780-428-0805.



Mustard Seed Art Show

Artists from The Mustard Seed art program showed their work at the Nina Haggerty Centre gallery during the month of October. Out of a total of 50 pieces, 22 paintings were sold. The drop in art group meets every Thursday evening from 8 to 10 p.m.



Sharien with two of her paintings.



Ruth Logan, 73, is the oldest artist in the group.

OPINION

Getting My Goat

By Timothy Wild, Calgary

A few weeks ago I received the annual Christmas catalogue from World Vision Canada. The catalogue contains pages of targeted donations that people can make on behalf of loved ones (and family) instead of giving the usual gifts that will either be returned on Boxing Day or will lie dormant until they are passed along to charity during the rite of spring-cleaning. I think it is a great idea and certainly does make a difference in the lives of people in the Global South. It also adds a bit of individuality, thoughtfulness and consciousness

to our gift giving. For example, people can donate the cost of a herd of goats or flock of chickens; or pay for the partial construction of a classroom. Such gifts have very real and ongoing benefits to the individuals and their communities. More importantly, the products help people actualize their autonomy, and support opportunities for authentic community economic development. It also puts into practice the maxim that "when you give a man a fish you feed him for a day; when you teach a man to fish you feed him for ever...and when you teach a woman to fish you feed the village forever".

When I was in Zambia a few years ago I saw first hand how locally

based initiatives could provide the financial wherewithal for individuals and communities to meet their basic daily needs, and have some measure of dignity in their lives. For example, a group of women with HIV / AIDS purchased a couple of sewing machines and were able to make clothes that they then sold. They were then able to buy corn meal, meat and cooking oil with their earnings. It also helped with their housing costs and the education fees for their children. This, taken with the provision of cheaper anti-retroviral medicines (generally generic meds), allows people to remain in their homes and live lives of some normalcy. Yes, the gifts are helpful in supporting this work.

This is a great program. However, we need more than charity to contest the unacceptable income disparity between the "haves" and the "have-nots" on the global stage. We need global structures that allow for predictable and sustainable poverty reduction as opposed to a patchwork of islands where community economic development is making a significant difference. Certainly gains have been made. As noted by Fr. Patxi Alvarez SJ, the Director of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat, "...some one billion people have escaped extreme poverty (an income of less than US\$ 1.25 per day), and there has been a slight bridging of the economic inequality gap between

Getting My Goat, Continued...

countries." However despite these not insignificant advances, Fr. Alvarez states "There are still 1.1 billion people in the world who are extremely poor, while another three billion are considered poor, surviving on an income of less than US\$2 per day. This figure has remained unchanged for the past 10 years."

So there is still the need for more than individual efforts that support community economic development. There is also the need for major structural reforms. Yet it seems as though the reforms are going the other way. In fact, international development aid from Canada is being increasingly linked to the pursuit of economic growth and opportunities for Canadian companies, in sectors such as mining. Most recently, the Conservative government revamped Canada's bilateral aid program, dropping countries from Africa, the world's poorest continent, from the list of major aid recipients, and adding some from the Americas - notably those with whom Canada has recently signed free-trade deals, or started trade talks: Peru, Colombia and the Caribbean. Moreover, these trade agreements seem to continue the dependence on cash crops and other exportable commodities

as opposed to supporting the development of economic systems and practices that develop and sustain local economies. These types of trade relations - and the attendant social relations - will not lead to a reduction in global poverty for the masses. If we link the local and the global, we can achieve a better world - but it requires the blending of both charity and justice. We need to support the aspirations of individuals and communities for a life that is full of dignity and maximum individual development. As Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations noted, "if we are to realize the future we want for all, we must hear and heed the calls of the marginalized... Together, we can build a sustainable world of prosperity and peace, justice and equity - a life of dignity for all." Well said! But such a future requires action, some reassessment of our lifestyles and increased solidarity with the Global South. Christmas is a perfect time to reflect on the impact this sometimes bleary, alienating and disheartening era of citizens qua consumers has on the world's poorest. After all, surely people count more than profits? Finally, on a personal note, I would like to wish all of the readers a Merry Christmas and the best for 2014!

LOOK ALIKE

Can You Guess?

Some woman wish they where in the shoes of Sarah Jessica Parker. One woman from Morinville, Alberta, who was recently discovered by Alberta Street News very own ASN Media Relations Co-ordinator John Zapantis, could easily pass off as the real McCoy! See if you can guess from our two photos who is the real Sarah Jessica Parker and who is the look alike, Sonia Schweizer.



Teacher false accusations go unpunished - Where is the justice?

By Alex Pswarayi

Alex is part of a social justice group in Old Strathcona. If you would like to comment on his article, go to: strathconajustice.blogspot.ca

Stories of false teacher accusations by students are common in countries such as the UK, the USA and Canada. As a result, careers, reputations and lives have been ruined. As well, fewer people, especially males, are willing to take up teaching as a profession. Interestingly, the accusers often do not face consequences; I have yet to read apologies from the culprit students! While it is paramount to protect students from abuse and predatory teachers, it is equally imperative to protect those who are willing to educate our future generations. It is a great injustice to turn a blind eye to malicious intentions, even if coming from non-adults.

False abuse accusations against teachers by students are on the rise in Canada (Mar

Gordon, Jon Bradley, Associate Professor of Education at McGill University). In some cases, parents have been implicated as they are quick at pointing fingers. False accusations emanate from the general assumption that any student accusation simply must be true because kids don't lie, and this is especially true if the accusation is made by a female student against a male teacher. Compounding the problem are school administrators who rush to investigate cases which are glaringly frivolous or not credible at all.

The rise in false teacher accusations, especially against males, is discouraging many from entering the teaching profession (Joel Wertheimer, Professor in the Faculty of Education at University of Ottawa).

As an example, nearly 13 percent of male educators have been reported to have been falsely accused from a study of 223 respondents across Ontario, Canada (Nipissing University, "A Report on the Professional Journey of Male Primary-Junior teachers in Ontario"). It is therefore not surprising that the male teacher role model is becoming scarce in the classroom. No wonder only 5 percent of student teachers in some universities are males, with predictions that the current low numbers of the male teachers will continue to fall, especially in elementary and middle schools. There are also many cases of false accusations against female teachers (<http://www.cea-ace.ca/education-canada/article/false-accusations-growing-fear-classroom>).

Typically, teachers are falsely accused of unfairness, picking on a student, sexual and physical abuse, racist utterances or incompetency. Yet, generally, the truth of the matter is that false accusations are a result of student disciplinary issues. It is well known that some students of this day and age will try by all means to avoid discipline. And they hide behind false accusations because they know all too well the consequences of an abuse complaint and how to play the system to their advantage. There have been cases where students have made false accusations to get an unpopular teacher red. It is therefore not surprising that many of the accusations made against teachers are proven false (<http://www.cea-ace.ca/education-canada/article/false-accusations-growing-fear-classroom>).

False accusations have resulted in careers, reputations and lives being ruined and, in some extreme cases, suicides. In cases where the charges are proven false and the teacher is vindicated, there is always long lasting harm to the teacher ([http://](http://www.cea-ace.ca/education-canada/article/false-accusations-growing-fear-classroom)

www.cea-ace.ca/education-canada/article/false-accusations-growing-fear-classroom). In spite of this harm, students are not made to suffer the consequences, which is a great injustice. While child protection against the predatory and abusive, teacher is very important, the educator also has to be protected. Doing otherwise is tantamount to undermining the pillars of the justice system. The age of the accuser should not be a factor in the justice system given the harm caused.

Not only is it a miscarriage of justice to let the false accuser go free without any consequences, but there is also a danger of breeding future generations of social misfits. Children who shun or avoid discipline will in most cases have problems disciplining their own children as well as finding and keeping jobs as adults. They may be more likely to depend on the taxpayers for welfare or spend time in penitentiaries. Hence, protecting the teacher can also be regarded as protecting the future well-being of any society.

In the UK today, an ACT called "The Education ACT of 2011" has been promulgated

([http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/9194130/Prosecute-children-](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/9194130/Prosecute-children-over-false-allegations-say-teachers.html)

[over-false-allegations-say-teachers.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/9194130/Prosecute-children-over-false-allegations-say-teachers.html)) to protect teachers from false accusations.

This ACT ensures that complaints will not be accepted just because they are made by children. Where a false accusation is proven as such, students together with their parents are sanctioned by enforced ones.

The current Canadian scenario where no consequences are suffered by students who make false accusations is not only bad for the teachers and society; it dies in the face of basic human rights. If other countries are taking concrete measures to address the problem, why not Canada also? In addition, the future of our society is in the classroom. And no great civilisation is insulated from bad justice and poor governance.

It will certainly fall just as the sun rises from the east and sets in the west.

Signify Signs

Celebrating Human Rights

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In Edmonton the event will be marked on December 11 with a panel discussion at City Hall, beginning at 4 p.m. in the Heritage Room.

"The Declaration of Human Rights is the greatest gift to humans in the 20th century and we will have two distinguished thinkers share ideas related to this and what it means," explains the host of the event, author Satya Das.

The presenters will be David Evans, distinguished commentator and editorialist; and Senator Douglas Roche, ardent advocate of peace and human rights.

The celebration is convened by Citizens for a Civil Society and Indo-Canadian Women's Association, the creators of Daughters Day. Following the presentations and discussion everyone is invited to stay for refreshments.



Alberta Street News would like to thank Signify Signs and its owner Keith Ponton and his Graphic Design/Sign Producer Laura Ashley for making and donating this ASN Sale-a-thon banner for our November 14th Alberta Street News Sale-a-thon that took place at the Stanley Milner Library in Edmonton.

Alberta Street News Vendor Recruitment Day

Held at drop-ins in Edmonton

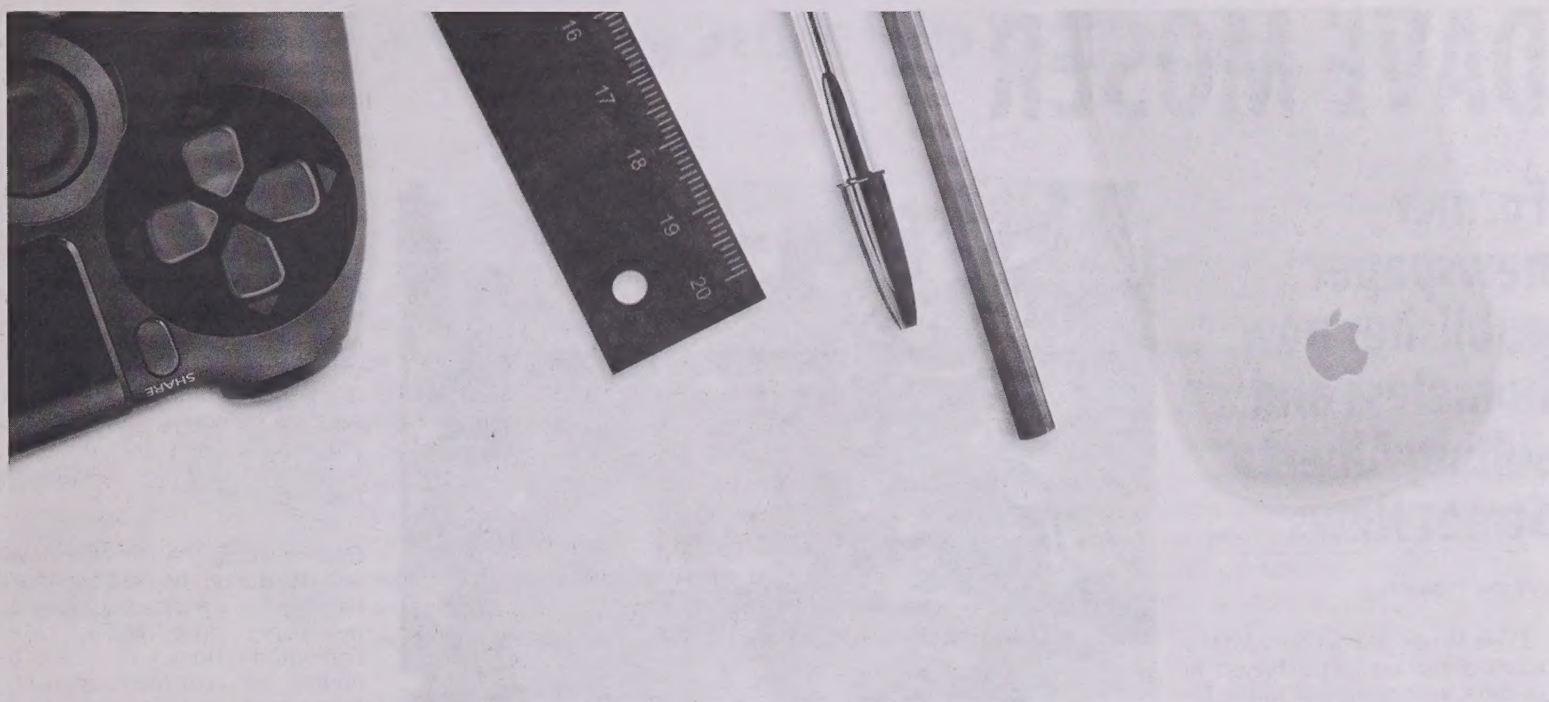
By John Zapantis

Editor Linda Dumont and I decided to organize and host a series of Alberta Street News vendor recruitment drives in Edmonton. A few weeks before the first of five vendor recruitment days were to

be held at drop-ins in Edmonton, Linda supplied me with a list of names of the Edmonton drop in centres that she suggested I contact to make arrangements to host our recruitment days, starting with Wednesday October 23 and every Wednesday after that until November 20th. I managed to write five letters informing these organizations about the purpose of our Alberta Street News Vendor Recruitment Day. Four of them

replied that we could use their facility for hosting that day but one of the social organizations that was contacted never replied to my letter. Through the vendor recruitment days, Alberta Street News managed to hire some new vendors to add to our ranks. On Wednesday October 23, Linda and I hosted the ASN Vendor Recruitment Day at the Neighbours Centre located at 7221-104 Street in Edmonton from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. She signed up only one new ASN vendor that day, Dave Moser, who received a free temporary vendors' badge and 10 free papers to sell. ASN would like to thank the staff at the Neighbours

Centre for allowing us to host our vendor recruitment day at their centre. On Wednesday October 30 I was without the assistance of my editor as I hosted the ASN Vendor Recruitment Day at the Boyle Street Community Services located at 10116-105 Avenue in Edmonton. The signing up was held between 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. I managed to sign up three newly recruited ASN vendors. The new recruits were Charles Moses, Glen Cardinal and Paul Learmont. I'd like to thank Boyle Street Community Services Drop-In support worker Shannon Hebden for allowing ASN the opportunity to use her facility to recruit new ASN vendors.



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DAVE MOSER

Former newspaper publisher now homeless and selling Alberta Street News

By John Zapanitis

Dave Moser, is legendary for the business success he's achieved in his time. With a natural talent for developing his skills, he has stared three of his former newspapers, Edmonton Jewish News, Alberta Native News and Western Native News. The success of owning three reputable newspaper publications, never came easy and never happened over night, but with a lot of hard work and determination, Dave, who once sold ads for various other news print publications, utilized those skills in selling ads for his three former publications.

In 1984, Dave Moser started his first ever newspaper, Alberta Native News. Dave and another male business partner took the big risk selling ads to make Alberta Native News financially independent. While operating his newspaper, Dave vowed never to take government grants. He reflected on the time, when working for an Aboriginal newspaper, Nation's Ensign as an ad man, he one day witnessed the Government of Canada cutting off funding for the operations of that paper. A paper would cease to exist after government cuts if dependent on government grants.

Moser elaborated on why he's so opposed to business grants for local businesses. Moser said, "National Ensign, now they were a government funded paper. I decided to go with a non-government theme. In other words, I wouldn't take grants from the government - I would simply sell ads rather than take grants from the government. The reason being, government gives you money so you're not a real paper. You're just an arm of the government, because they can take the money and give it back to you and they can put you out of business. So I decided to stay away from government grants. I just started selling ads and did very well. First issue I think was 24 pages." The success in selling ads for his own paper got his first paper, Alberta Native News published in September, 1984. The Alberta Native News had a circulation of 10,000 papers that were distributed to Native reserves throughout Alberta. The first issue of Alberta Native News that rolled off the press featured pieces on Batoche, a Métis revolution led by Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont.



Dave Moser

Photo by John Zapanitis

Once Moser's paper was flying financially, he decided to start another Aboriginal paper called Western Native News in 1986. The paper was distributed to every Native reserve in British Columbia with a circulation of 8,000. In 1990, when both of his papers were at their highest productive peaks financially, the determined publisher started his third newspaper called Edmonton Jewish News. The success of operating three publications, encouraged the publisher to purchase a house out in West Edmonton, a comfortable new home that would accommodate Dave, his wife and three children. As the years went by, Dave managed to get all three of his children through university - a big accomplishment he takes pride in to this day. His marriage during that time was basically a happy one. His former wife, Brenda, was not only a supportive spouse and good mother to his children, but an excellent business partner.

His children are his pride and joy and he's pleased with their career choices. His one son has his Master's degree in occupational therapy in which he recently found employment with the Alberta Government at Alberta Health Services. His other son is a hockey scout in the Canadian minor leagues and his daughter is a radio announcer in Calgary. Recently Dave Moser's wife asked for a divorce. The divorce was so devastating, that he expressed his love to his wife one last time by giving her their house and leaving her with ownership and operation of their three newspapers. Losing all his motivation from that devastating divorce eventually had Dave living on Edmonton streets, homeless. For two years from that date, he's struggled to find a place to lay his hat. He's slept on park benches, under trees, even at one of his son's places from time to time. He's also been dependent on Edmonton's many soup kitchens for the odd bite.

While trying to avoid trouble, he'll spend his time busking, playing the guitar out on Whyte Avenue for

loose change that certainly helps while treating himself.

Dave started busking in May, 2013. The songs that he usually performs vary from Neil Young to blues music and some jazz, Gordon Lightfoot tunes and even Johnny Cash. Moser has learned a lot about people and their generous ways when showing their appreciation for his musical abilities. Moser said, "I found out what people are like, what people like to listen to. Some people walk on by without even looking. The kids - some kids look and say, 'Hey mom look at the music guy.' People like - I sit on the LRT station and they all walk on by. The odd guy throws a quarter or a dollar. Some people will give you five dollars. One guy who sees me with a guitar on my back gives me \$60.00. So you never know. Then I learned a lot about getting kicked out of various places." While busking, he's even been told to vacate their premises by various business owners.

Moser said, "I go to Sobey's. They always give me food to go away. So I go back there. They give me food to go away. So I go back there. They give me food. They say, 'What do you want this time?' 'Uh give me a monthly.' I'm gone - sometimes they pay me to go away. He says, 'You're bothering me.' And I say, 'Okay,' but they usually pay me to go away. They say, 'How much?' 'Okay a dime, or a quarter.' And they always give me \$5.00 to go away. That's good for five minutes. I'm that kind of guy. I joke around with people a lot and that really works okay. Like if you joke with a guy and you have a sense of humour and make him laugh. Like I wrote music, something called 'The Tar Sands, It's an abomination. It's genocide. It's like the Tar sands. The biggest polluter in the land. It's great for the economy. It's great for everyone, except for the folks in Fort Chipewyan. For those who get cancer. I had to kill a duck, to buy a truck. My kids won't last their out of luck'.

He also does one liner's for our ASN interview. Moser said, "John, you know what the best thing about being homeless is? You don't have to take a bus home. You know what the best thing about going out with a homeless girl is? You can drop her off anywhere." Dave is Jewish and proud of it and even sees the humour in being Jewish. Moser jokes, "Why did God invent non-Jewish people? Somebody had to buy retail."

Despite living the life of a down and out during the past two years, Dave plans on starting his own newspaper once again, called Edmonton's Homeless. He'll be finding an apartment soon, he hopes to have his paper off and running by February 15 of 2014. For now selling Alberta Street News will do. His moral words of advice for anyone desiring to succeed in life, Moser said, "Find a job. Go to business school. Then start your own business. It's simple, work for someone your whole life and you won't get anywhere. You get somewhere, you get a salary but if you want to aspire to be a little better than that and change the world a little bit, change their business and learn something about the business, but don't say you can do twelve things at one time.

"Concentrate on one thing, whether it's publishing, or carpentry, or whatever. Maybe learn something about it at first and then start. Grow your own business. Don't be afraid of failure. People are so afraid that they're going to fail. They're afraid, if what happens, if this and that. I'm never afraid. Don't worry. You can't predict the future. Don't feel guilty. Can't fix the past."

We Must Not Allow Others to Define Who We Are.



By Maria B.

It is so sad how easily we allow people to become the experts of who we are. We go through life allowing the words and actions of others to define who we are, leaving us feeling isolated, rejected and betrayed. Going through life, we learn that the scars we bear should not make us feel ashamed; instead of being ashamed when we look in the mirror we should identify the strength and the resilience we have demonstrated through the storms of life. Through the emotional scars we have learned to survive and gain an insight on who we are. We must be proud of who we are. There is only one of each of us; we

are unique and if we do not believe in ourselves how we can expect for others to believe in us? We must acknowledge the trauma that we have endured in our childhood. We were innocent children and we were not responsible for the physical, verbal, and emotional abuse that we suffered. If we did not have a parent to defend us, we also suffered abandonment. No child should endure what we went through.

Through our growing years, the anger and resentment obscured who is responsible for what we went through. Children always feel it is their fault, that it must have been something we did to made our parents choose to take different paths and abandon their own children to pursue their own happiness. Most children that come from troubled homes share something in common, which is low regard for themselves. They feel that they are failures, isolated, unlovable and most importantly, they feel that they do not belong. The day comes when we realize we did not create our parents problems but were just casualties.

Once the trust of primary relationships has been violated, there is always the fear of allowing ourselves to get too close to

others - the fear of being hurt again. A natural reaction is to protect oneself from further pain. Unfortunately our models have been unhealthy and consequently we have learned unhealthy ways to protect ourselves from rejection. I have also noticed that we tend to talk about others in a collective identity, painting everyone with the same brush to deny the individuality of each person by objectifying them. Because of this you allow your anger to be discharged at everyone. It does not matter if they have hurt you in the past or not - it is you against the collective 'them'.

In childhood you were not responsible for the abuse. Time does not stand still. We keep growing but for some people time stayed still and by doing this they failed to allow themselves to develop and empower themselves as a grown up. They still feel everyone is responsible for everything that happened to them in their childhood and this is not true. You are not responsible for the dysfunction of your parents and no one else is responsible for that either. It is impossible to live a healthy life when a person decides to keep nursing anger and blaming everyone. In order to heal you have to evaluate the events and realize

that as a child you were vulnerable and unable to defend yourself but as an adult you have to take responsibility for your actions and behaviors. Healing is to realize that you have the right to exist and the right to be accepted and treated with dignity and respect. Healing is to be able to grieve about what you lost and arrive at the understanding that you were denied a caring home and a loving upbringing. At this stage you can become the parent that your inner child needed so badly. Healing also is forgiving, which is based on acceptance that your parents were unable to provide you with the basic needs that any child requires. When you are able to accept the facts of your childhood as they were, you will be able to let go through forgiveness, you will stop blaming others and even yourself. Voicing the experiences of our pasts, we realize that millions of people have walked our steps and some of them choose to blame others and some of them realize that they need to take responsibility for their own healing.



Free Meals In Red Deer

Barahcah Place

4611-50 Avenue

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Loaves and Fishes

6002-54 Avenue

403 347-1844

Supper - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Potter's Hands,

4935-51 Street

403 309-4246

Breakfast - 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Monday to Friday

9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday

Lunch - 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. Monday

Supper - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday

Seventh Day Adventist Church

5014 - 49 Street

403 341-4470

Supper 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday and Saturday

The Leopard Coat - A Christmas Story

By Sharon Austin

"Did your present get there yet? Rosie asked. "No, I think it must have been lost or stolen." Mary answered. "It's a shame but after 40 years of sending each other gifts, it was bound to happen." The two old sisters lived a great distance apart but had always remained close in spirit. "It was a leopard coat" Rosie said wistfully.

"Instead of being sad about it lets make the coat a point of contact, and lets ask God to richly bless the wearer of the coat." Mary was forever an optimist and nothing ever got her down. And so, the two old saints, who had known their share of trials and blessings, knelt down to pray.

The night was bitterly cold and Jake shivered in his makeshift tent in the ravine. "It is only a few days until Christmas," he thought, not that it mattered. Christmas was for other people, people who had homes

and families, not people like him. Still, he was thankful for the old black and white tom cat who had wandered into his tent and decided to stay. Jake called him Winky and he was the one warm spot in his old sleeping bag. Jake had been in a downward spiral since he hurt his back doing odd jobs. He couldn't pay the rent, and had found himself on the street picking bottles and selling papers just to get food for himself and Winky.

Suddenly, Jake heard voices. "Stop Thief! I think he went that way!" This was followed by the sound of a police siren and running feet. Jake cowered in his hideout. If the police found him here they could force him to go to a shelter and what would happen to poor Winky. There was a heavy thud against the side of the tent and Jake's heart leapt in fear. At length, when all was quiet, he crept outside to see a ripped cardboard box with presents inside. Someone had sent him a present! Who even knew he was here; he always kept to himself.

Reaching into the box he pulled out a leopard coat. The richly coloured pile seemed to glow in the flashlight's dim beam. Jake neither knew or cared about fashion, the only thing that mattered was being warm. As soon as Jake put on the coat he felt like he was enveloped in a warm hug, and then a memory, long forgotten, hit him with such force it took his breath away. He remembered his mother twirling in front of the Christmas tree wearing a leopard coat; her dark curls bouncing on her shoulders. He remembered his father smiling, handing him the red fire engine, a sad omen of things to come. That was the last Christmas, before the fire that had taken everything, before he had been scarred, before the foster homes, before the abuse and bullying at school had caused him to quit at 16, before he had lost all faith in people..... It was wonderful to remember that he had been deeply loved by his parents and he slept soundly wrapped in the warmth of the leopard coat. Winky

curled up beside him kneading the coat with his paws and purring louder than ever before. The next day Jake put his old canvas coat on over the leopard coat and started on his rounds picking bottles. He stopped in front of the bakery that had a sign in the window "Help Wanted." He had passed the sign many times but had always stopped himself from going in. What did he know about baking! Today he felt differently. He felt courageous and loved and ready to face the world.

Mr. Jenkins, the baker, was getting on in years and was desperate for help. He couldn't pay much but he offered a small room and board, and part time work. It was perfect for Jake

especially when Mr. Jenkins said he loved cats. Mr. Jenkin's was losing his sight and he asked Jake to read him a passage from the Bible every night. The Word seemed to come alive to Jake and for the first time he understood the tremendous love of God, who sent his only son, Jesus, to redeem all who would believe. He finally understood that God's love was all around him like a warm snug coat. Nothing could separate him from the love of God.

One year later Jake was happily baking Christmas cookies. What a year it had been. He had taken to baking like a duck to water and Mr. Jenkins had made him a full partner. He had everything he wanted; a home, someone to share Christmas with, and of course, Winky. The

bell rang, and a woman entered with a small boy. She looked weary beyond her years, like she had lost her faith. Jake knew that feeling all to well. She wore a thin summer coat pulled tightly around her against the cold.

"I'll have a Santa cookie for the boy," she said, "and do you have any day old bread." Jake handed him the cookie. "Merry Christmas," he said, smiling. He took two fresh loaves and offered the woman a very low price. Jake took her small pile of change, knowing that people had their pride. All of a sudden he remembered the leopard coat. "It's awful cold out tonight," he began, "Could you use a winter coat?" She eyed him warily with her hand on the door. "What's the

catch," she said distrustfully. "Nothing at all," Jake said as he handed her the leopard coat. "Oh, it's beautiful," she smiled as she put it on. "Thank -you so much." She seemed to walk a little straighter with a new bounce in her step as he watched her walk away. Suddenly a ray of sunlight broke through the clouds and seemed to illuminate the bright leopard pattern of the coat. Jake bowed his head and offered up a prayer to God. "May God richly bless the wearer of the coat."

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF MAGIC

By Angelique Branstion

Christmas has always been one of the most magical times of the year for me -the way the barren trees seem to be painted beautifully with frost and snow and the way music seems to float in the air. Mostly it is the way it lifts people spirits, and infuses hope for the future. I remember one Christmas when I was a child. I could never figure out how Santa Claus got into out house. You see we didn't have a chimney, and the doors were always locked so my older brother and I decided that we would wait beside the Christmas tree until he came so that we could thank him for our presents, and maybe be able to pet the reindeer that guide his sleigh. I remember telling our mom the plan. She laughed and said that it sounded like fun, but that perhaps we should hide underneath a blanket so that we wouldn't scare Santa Claus away. She said that he was very shy. So with hope and anticipation my brother and I went to work in the living room. We laid down a big heavy quilt on the floor for us to lie upon, and then of course two pillows, followed by a light very thin blue blanket. We lay on the quilt and tested the blanket to make sure we could see through it. We giggled, and watched how the Grinch stole Christmas through the blanket. We laughed at how surprised Santa would be that we would actually see him. Then we brushed our teeth, and laid out a plate of cookies for Santa. We hugged our mom, and said goodnight. We even came up with a system that if we saw the other one falling asleep, we would gently shake him. So there we lay for hours quietly giggling, long after

our parents went to bed. We talked about what Santa really looked like and what questions we would ask him. I remember we managed to stay awake until the wee hours of the morning. Then our eyes gave way to rest with the Christmas lights on the tree quietly winking on through the night as the sole witness of Santa Claus' coming, and going. We awoke and gazed with wonder at our gifts newly arrived from Santa waiting for us under the tree, a little disappointed that we did not get to see him or his reindeer but filled with joy and wonder all the same. We contented ourselves with the knowledge that we might be able to meet Santa next year with the magic of Christmas full in our hearts as we played with our presents and spied on our mom making the Christmas feast.

Christmas

By Ryan Robertson

Christmas comes -
And not without hope....
It is for some
A time to rejoice -
For others
A time to cope...
We must put aside
The feelings
That keep us sad...
And replace them
With those
That make us glad
For another year
Has passed us by -
And we must
Go on
Without a sigh

The Special Season

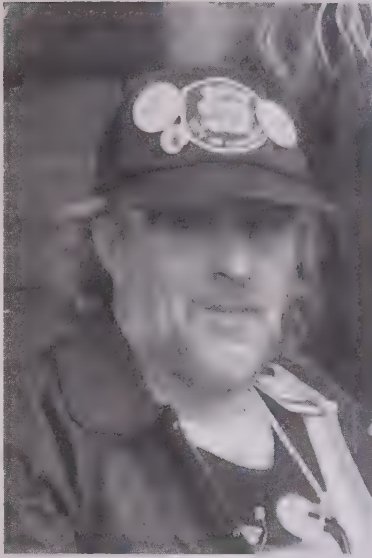
By Ryan Robertson

The snow flies
And the people
On the street scurry
For finding a warm
Secure place
They're in a hurry
This month
Seems more profound
As Christmas comes
With all its sound
To some it seems
Very unfair
But when your heart
Beats with care
The season takes on
A special flair

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ROB'S CORNER IN CALGARY



By Robert Champion

Day after Day Moment to Moment

Every time I walk the street, I think of her. Every time I ride my bike, I think of her. Every time I pass by our old apartment building, I think of her. Every time I go downtown I think of her. Every time I ride a bus or a train, I think of her. Every night when I enter my lonely, what seems to be an empty apartment, I think of her. My world seems so empty, lonely without her.

Not a Good Time

Not a good time to be living in Calgary, unless you have a roof over your head, a place to call home. For many Calgarians, thousands, this is not the case. Many have to go to shelters, not because they are lazy, or on drugs, but because this city's vacancy rate is at 1% or less, plus rents are on the rise. Add in the June flood 2013, now you have more people scrambling to find some kind of decent, affordable housing, which this city lacks, and no one in government seems to care. There are many people today in shelters, who are flood victims, who have jobs, as well as others, who can't find any available housing.

Questions and Comments

Why is it sometimes so hard to let the past go? Why do people end up falling thru the cracks? It's not easy getting by these days with the cost of living on the rise. Why aren't our governments more accountable when it comes to spending our money? Sometimes it's not easy to forget the past, especially when

you've lost someone. I was shocked to see that so many young people were not wearing a poppy during Remembrance Day week! What's going on with our young people? Many vets depend on that money raised through the poppy fund. Many vets sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

What's up in Calgary

The city this past June got an unexpected rebate from one level of government, think from the province, \$50,000,000. Now the debate is on about where that money should be spent. So far Calgarians at a recent public meeting, some stated they wanted lower taxes, some wanted better public transit, more c-train access or put into road construction. Nothing so far was even mentioned about affordable housing. While I'm sure the list keeps growing, especially for single folks, nothing seems to happen.

Not Much of a Traveler

Although I do occasionally like to get away, I wasn't much of a traveler. I would easily get homesick after a day or two. So my visits say to a friend of mine in Vancouver, were pretty short, just a few days - I would be right back on that Greyhound heading back to Calgary. I made Calgary my home way back in September 1979. Vancouver was my home until then. Vancouver New Westminster. It's always nice to get away, but long stays didn't agree with me and I'd get pretty bored after just a day or two. Lorna, our daughter and I moved from New Westminster in my friends van in 79 and made our home here in Calgary.

(Break-ups) are never easy

Break-ups are never easy even if you remain friends afterwards. I myself went through it with my first wife Anna, back in 1972. Matter of fact we dated for two months after the break up in Sept. of that same year. We had a daughter together, Sherine Angela. She was only about two at the time, which made it even harder on me. I tried to save the marriage, but was not to be. We were together for a year and a half. I was just 20, Anna was 16, so young we were. It was a forced marriage. It took me a year to get over it. I never remarried, but lived common-law with Lorna.

We met in Jan. 1977. We had a couple of break-ups but managed to work things out. It's hard work, compromise and dedication that keeps a relationship together (and trust). Jealousy in a relationship only causes friction and mistrust.

The Hardest Things

The hardest thing that I deal with is the loneliness. I even play back phone messages, just to hear a voice, to ease the pain. This will be my second Christmas spent alone. The first one was hard enough without Lorna, sure this won't be easier. I do have friends but most are busy spending Christmas with family. I do manage. I at least have memories of past years, spending Christmas with Lorna (fond memories).

Christmas

A time to put our differences aside. A time to celebrate with family and friends this special time. A time not

to be alone. A time for good will and peace on earth. A time to share a persons' good fortune.

It's a lonely time for many

Christmas can be a lonely time for many Calgarians who have no family to share this special season with. Some are fortunate or are lucky to have good friends, cause this time of year can be a lonely one.

Rob's say of the Day

Not easy not having family around for Christmas, not easy for anyone. Just so happy to have good friends as anyone should! To all my supporters and friends ...Thanks for your kind support of the Alberta Street News. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SUPPORT ALBERTA STREET NEWS

You can help in the following ways:

I want to to subscribe to Alberta Street News. Please find enclosed pnclosed payment of \$30 for a 1n year subscription

I want to make a donation towards publication costs. Please find enclosed my donation of \$ _____

I want to help someone to reperesent ASN at the International Network of Street Papers conference in July. I want to donate \$ _____

I want to donate Air Miles points towards air fair to the conference in Glasgow, Scotland in 2014

For more information about ASN, Call Managing Editor Linda Dumont at 780-428-0805

Please pay by money order or cheque. Payments can be made out to Edmonton Street News Society
9533-106 A Avenue Edmonton AB T5H 0S9

Celebrity Sale-a-thon Continued



Alberta Street News Sale-a-thon participants holding ASN sale-a-thon banner celebrating the papers tenth anniversary on Thursday November 14, at the Stanley Milner Library in Edmonton: left to right, CBC television morning man Mark Connolly, Calgary ASN vendor Andie W. L., ASN reporter and board member Eric Rice, CBC Radio Active Portia Clark, ASN vendor Angelique Branston, Calgary ASN vendor Rory Gaudon, ASN board member Naomi Giroux, ASN Editor Linda Dumont and Rob Pearson Constituency Manager for Brian Mason, MLA, Edmonton Highlands. Not shown, Rachel Notley, MLA for Edmonton Strathcona, and councillor Michael Walters, and vendor Darin Sharlet.



CBC Radio Active personality Portia Clark and Calgary ASN Vendor Andie W.L. pose for the camera while taking a break from selling at on the northwest corner of 100 street and 102 avenue during the ASN Sales-a-thon.



CBC's Mark Cononlly and ASN Calgary vendor Rory Gaudon won the celebrity sale-a-thon with a total of \$189.50 in sales. Gaudon holds up a lucky coin to wish the Luck of the Irish to a fellow before mentoring Connolly in the art of vending.



Rachel Notley, MLA chose to sell outside her constituency office on Whyte Avenue with ASN vendor Dale Ferris.



Councillor Michael Walters with vendor Darin. Walters was the editor of Our Voice the street newspaper before going on to pursue his political ambitions.

A Contemporary Street/ Homeless Aboriginal, Inuit, and Metis 2013 Christmas

By Andie W.L.

As I watch the first winter snowfall on Friday, October 27, 2013 , I am reminded about the many familiar faces and places I regularly see - Urban Aboriginals, Inuit, and Métis. I'm saddened and find it heartbreaking to see these people, of all ages, youth through to senior, knowing they will be out walking the streets of the downtown core in Calgary at the very moment I write this story.

They are going about their daily lives, surviving mainly on finding their next fix of alcohol and other addictive substances. Their whole day consists of panhandling in order to get enough money for someone in the group to make a run to the liquor store. In desperate times when they don't get

enough spare change for a bottle their last resort is to purchase an over the counter potent brew, a cocktail of alcohol containing products.

This is a sub-cultural of groups that came from late 1950 to 1960's generation! This was a time when their grandparents and parents were taken away or forced to give up their children to be placed in foster homes and adopted out to some white homes. When the children were of age, some were told that there were no more government monies to look after these children. They were released and some were taken to a downtown city like rounded up cattle dumped off on a side road from a cattle liner.

Some of these people, whom I see in the core, are from families or relatives to these grandparents and parents who had no choice but to give up their own children. I would estimate today that there are about four generations out there on the streets of Calgary from grandparents to great grandchildren. The great grandchildren I see are from the age of teenagers to early twenties.

When I see a group of the people drinking and mixing substances in their beverage, it is obvious their addictions are far beyond what mine was back a long time ago when I was a drinker. Hard core alcoholic and substance abuse was all around them since the time of their upbringing by their grandparents. I know that if I were raised around the bottle, sitting drinking at the kitchen table all day and people around me drank from the time I was a child, I am convinced I would be drinking alcohol and over the counter substances today and be out of control.

These generational people struggle with their own identity and living with their past childhood traumas. They drink to ease post-traumatic pain. They don't trust anyone. They haven't been shown empathy and compassion. They have never felt the security of being attached or bonded to a care giver let alone their own parents and relatives. They have only been shown how to hate, revenge, resist and rebel against the world they are walking in today. They mirror and attract the type of company that has similar addictions to themselves. While under the influence the sub-conscious mind just wants to be around its own kind where destructive and unhealthy attitudes and behaviours exist.

They don't belong in the white society and some are neglected and rejected by their own Aboriginal Nations, families and extended families and even the overall mainstream society. There are some, who have recovered, being clean and sober from substances for many years. They are living life today without having close-knit family ties to turn to as well as other family members. A majority of these individuals who are hard core street homeless today are left on the street until there is the conscious need to attend to their basic needs. Some will go to places that are going to have annual Christmas dinners this December 2013. During this time some will sober up, often only for a short time, and then eventually they will fall back to the street life they came from.

I know that no one can help these people by trying to stop them from drinking and abusing substances. The individual is given hope to see sobriety throughout the day and can only make the decision in the

moment. They will decide if they want to live or continue to drink. Because they have already made their decision by drinking again, it will be just a matter of time before the individual will eventually die. Some are so far gone, have given up and are just living out the last of their days. They will never be able to see sobriety. There just seems to be no conscious understanding of why they are abandoned and nobody wants to accept them in their life. There is no clear understanding to explain why they are part of the trickling effect of generations of reserve and family lateral violence. They cannot understand why they were not cared and loved by even an extended family friend. When there is no family member around to accept them fully as human beings and to be part of their lives this has a drastic effect.

Although these people are often inebriated at the line ups for a 2013 Christmas dinner sitting, this is the only place where they are accepted. Here they can have a chance to be inside from the freezing temperatures. It's great to have a Christmas dinner and to not be told to leave like they are from every other public place they have been to in the downtown core. I have written this quote in a couple of my past stories! And I think it is a long time coming to send this message from Black Elk Speaks, dedicated to Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis street/homeless. It will be a reflection for this Christmas Season, of the days of cold, harsh rustling winds and the rays of the warm winter sunlight, a reminder, to the individuals I see on a daily basis while walking in the downtown core.



**"You have noticed the truth comes into this world with two faces.
One is sad with suffering; And the other laughs;
But it is the same face: Laughing or Weeping;
When my people are already in despair;
Maybe the laughing face is better for them;
And when they feel too good and are too sure of being safe;
Maybe the weeping face is better for them to see;**

Black Elk Speaks: Being a story from a Holy Man of The Oglala Sioux
For those of you considering Christmas gifts for your favourite Street Talk Vendor a gift card to Bench Clothing is my personal favourite.

Meals & Food Resources in Calgary

Drop-In Centre 1, 4th Avenue SE

All clients of The DI may access meal services. Meals and snacks are provided at no charge to anyone in need. Food service is offered on the 2nd Floor daily, 365 days a year. Clients who are unable to attend regular meal service due to work or school commitments, or other verifiable appointments can receive a bagged lunch.

Bagged lunches can be arranged by request to any staff person, or through the Day Office located on the 2nd Floor.

Meal Schedules

Breakfast - 7:00 a.m.
Snack - 9:30 a.m.
Lunch - 12:00 p.m.
Snack - 3:30 p.m.
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Center of Hope 420_9th Avenue SE

Free for clients
Open to public for small charge
Breakfast: \$2.50
Lunch: \$3.00
Dinner: \$4.50

Emergency Meals (24 & Under)
EXIT Community Outreach
117-7th Avenue SW, Calgary
403-262-9953
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 p.m.

Emergency Meals - Youth EXIT Youth Shelter

11216 Ave NE, Calgary
7 days/week - 4:00 pm - 9:00 p.m.

Community Supports

Streetlight - Youth for Christ
Parks at 10th ave & 1st Street SE
Monday & Thursday

Emergency Meals

Alex Community Health Centre
Unit 101, 1318 Centre Street NE
403-266-2622
Thursdays Only - 10:30 a.m.
Food Bank
Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank
403-253-2055

Food Hamper
NeighbourLink Calgary
403-209-1930

Food Bank
Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank
403-253-2059

Food Bank
Calgary Poppy Fund and Veterans
Food Bank
Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Food Bank

Muslim Families Network Society: Halal Food
403-466-6367
www.MuslimFamiliesNetwork.com

Food Hamper

St. Edmund's Anglican Church
8336-34th Ave NW
Monday & Thursday
09:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Community Meals
Inn from the Cold
403-263-8384

Emergency Food
CUPS (Calgary Urban Project Society)
128-7th Avenue SE

Food Hamper & Meals
Feed the Hungry, St. Mary's Cathedral
Sunday Dinner
3:30 pm - 5:00 p.m.

Meals on the street outside City Hall
Calgary Street Church
Monday - 6:00pm,
Wednesday 11:00a.m.
Friday - 6:00pm Sunday, 1:00 p.m.

Unmet Needs Report for the second quarter of 2013 shows housing as number one

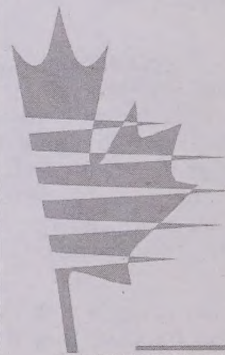
Approximately 53% (50 / 97) of the unmet needs calls taken by 211 this quarter were around the issue of housing. Of these 50 calls, the vast majority (42) pertained to looking for long-term housing. Affordable, long-term housing continues to be an extremely challenging need to meet for Edmontonians. Due to long waiting lists, clients are waiting for years for appropriate housing to become available.

Callers frequently called for assistance with finding a short-term shelter as well. While it was somewhat common for callers to have been turned away from a shelter due to it being full, more commonly the issue was children. Men who have children are currently unable to find free shelter in Edmonton. Women who have children and are not fleeing domestic violence have limited options which fill up quickly. Overall, housing continues to be far and away the primary unmet need appearing in 211 calls.

The second biggest unmet need is for transportation.

“This is my wish for you: peace of mind, prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams, joy to fill your holidays!”

- D.M. Dellinger



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

RESPECTING TRADITION

December is a month of anticipation within our culture, leading up to Christmas on December 25. Everywhere we are inundated with 'seasonal' music and decorations, frequently designed to encourage people to spend money on gifts.

But there's more to Christmas than commercialism. Christmas refers to the birth of Jesus Christ, who is accepted by Christians as the Son of God, born on Christmas Day, crucified on Good Friday and resurrected on Easter Sunday. The holiday is tied to a specific event in history that is celebrated in December. There are many who don't believe Christ is God, believing instead he was a prophet or wise man, but there is no dispute he is the reason for the season.

There are other holidays in December of course, such as Hanukkah, but they have not had the same impact on our society as Christmas. Our tradition of gift giving began with the first Christmas and the gifts of the Magi and continued through the work of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) in the fourth century to our Christmas gift-giving today.

That is why it seems well-meaning but rather misguided to replace the sending of Christmas cards with 'holiday' cards, or to wish someone 'happy holidays' or 'season's greetings' instead of saying 'Merry Christmas.' It looks like an attempt to avoid the fact that Christmas is about Christ, as if bringing his name into it somehow makes many people uncomfortable.

The message of Christmas, of 'peace on earth and good will to all' remains just as universal today as when it was first proclaimed. There is no reason to remove Christ from Christmas. Save the 'happy holidays' for a different time of year. What do you think?

Please join us for our Christmas Open House at
9111-118 Ave. Thursday, Dec. 19th 3-7pm

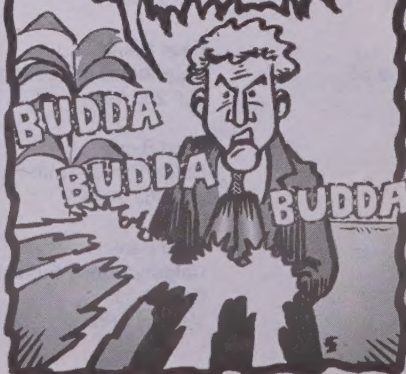
780-495-3261 www.petergoldring.ca

POIROT'S LAST CASE

I HAVE CALLED YOU ALL HERE TODAY BECAUSE ONE PERSON IN THIS ROOM IS—

—A MURDERER!

THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S ME!



WELL, YOU REALLY THOUGHT THAT ONE THROUGH, "MR. DETECTIVE!"



Community Means Everybody at Strathcona Farmers' Market

By Eric Rice

The Old Strathcona Farmers Market runs 51 Saturdays per year. With approximately 10,000 people coming through the doors on a busy day, and with over 100 vendors on site, you could say that this small non-profit is a big business. But that's not how Stephanie Szakacs-St. Louis sees it.

"The market," she says "is kind of like a gathering place for people on Saturday. A lot of our customers are actually local people who come in to meet with the neighbours or meet with their friends for a coffee first thing in the morning."

That sense of community, of gathering and sharing, extends to the broader community as well. The Old Strathcona Farmer's Market

provides free space every Saturday for a nonprofit group to set up a table and provide information to the crowds.

On a busy day in the summer you can experience this sense of community in action. Buskers and musicians ply their trade inside the market walls. People stop and chat with each other in the aisles, and many friendships are struck up between the vendors and their customers. Advice, news and gossip is all shared. Outside the market more buskers and community groups take advantage of the crowds. Women in Black Standing for Peace can often be seen on the sidewalk. Down the block by the gazebo Falun Gong practitioners routinely seek petition signatures and hand out literature. It is a community of divergent thought



Angelique Branston at her vending post in the Northeast corner of the market.

Photo by Eric Rice

paper vendor in her time there, and allows one of the regular vendors to sit inside the market on cold days. Others station themselves out front or along the sidewalk leading to the market.

"The whole nature of our organization is to help small business and to help the little people, so other organizations that are doing the same thing we support them in any way we can."

She also sees the inclusion as part of their mandate and philosophy. "We have customers from all different walks of life, and we want to include everybody in our market," she says. "We never created the market to be only for one section of people, we wanted it to be for everyone. Any community gathering place is better when it reflects all walks of society, not just an individual group."

She's been there for eight years,

starting as an office assistant and advancing to become the Executive Director. Many of the vendors, she says, have been there for much longer, some of them starting as kids growing up in the market and now running businesses of their own. That's one thing she likes about it, is the way that community can work to help everyone grow. She's seen that support make a big difference for some of the ASN vendors over the years. "You see somebody every week," she says. "It's nice to be in place where you don't lose that connection."

Connections. Community. Sharing. These words mean a lot to everyone. But they can mean so much more to those who are vulnerable or alone. As we approach Christmas we should all be thankful for places like the Old Strathcona Farmer's Market.



Peter Gladue at his vending post outside the market doors

Photo by Eric Rice

and practice, all living together in harmony.

Hidden at times in the market crowd are the vendors of Alberta Street News. They, too, take advantage of the area's popularity in order to sell their papers.

"I've seen a lot of customers develop relationships with vendors who are selling the papers...I've seen them come and have conversations with them every week...so it's more than just giving a donation for the paper - it's more of a community

thing," says Stephanie. "At times it's been difficult to manage, because everybody (the vendors) wants to come inside...and we've also had instances where people show up who aren't actually authorized to sell the paper. But we developed a relationship with the lady in charge and we got a sense from her what the rules were so we could know who was supposed to be selling... because those are the people who know the rules and follow them."

The market has only had to ban one



Dale Ferris vending outside the market in the summer.

Photo by Eric Rice

A RORY STORY

The Education Wish of Queen Trish

By Rory Gaudon

"Remember some of society's youth get hooked on alcohol and drugs. Those children are often lied to and sometimes even beaten up by bullying thugs. It is a great honour to be a policewoman or policeman. In every community these fine officers of the law help protect all citizens to the best of their ability. I am sure glad they

patrol every community. Police do work well with mislead children all over our Creators land. An Officer of the Law is a career choice that is extremely grand. Police Constables do have great jobs and know where other concerned personal in the system can help these victims of society rehabilitate, offering assistance to a mislead individual and helping them believe in themselves is their good faith.

It is sad that some unfortunate youth in life have made a grave mistake. We must never consider these unfortunate ones as being a fake. Now it is time for me to go you know. I must roam back to my home, for a while. Trishette I like your positive thoughts, pleasant smile and excellent style." Roar said as he stood up and with his good will, paid the waiter for Trish's food bill.

Queen Trish smiled replying, "It was nice having a conversation in a restaurant that allows its

customers good dining. Did you ever notice that it's always the negations in life, are always the ones complaining? The children will soon realize most restaurants provide jobs for busboys, cooks, chefs, janitors, managers, waiters and waitresses. Once this type of industry has steady clientele it's a business success."

The Gnome acknowledged with this response, "You are definitely right. By the way our waiter was quite polite. I am going to leave him a nice tip for providing us

fine service about life, he has a good grip. Our waiter mentioned he was working to pay his way through college. He wants to become a forest ranger, admitting he definitely needs more knowledge." As they walked out of the restaurant they both waved goodbye to the smart little guy. When you go out for breakfast, lunch or dinner it is always a nice thrill. Especially if your friend; pays the bill. Remember a great waiter or waitress does take skill.

Trish smiling said, "We must get together again to continue with this conversation." Then they went on their own way, for the rest of the day.

Roar finally arrived at his home, unlocking the front door entering it alone: proceeding to the freezer retrieving some meat, to thaw out for supper. He liked to prepare food; that daily chore also put him into a pleasant mood. A few hours

passed by. It was time to cook supper. The King knew helping dwarves believe in themselves made him happier. He placed his roast into the oven. Slowly the prime rib cooked and it was time to eat, all the vegetables including the potatoes, with homemade stuffing. After munching out, Roar cleaned up the kitchen.

Now it was time to see what was on TV. Hours passed by, It was really late, Roar did not wait to change into his pyjamas and head for the bed. Silently, praying to our Creator. "Dear God could you please help all the children work peacefully together. Please help them learn the right wisdom in their great kingdom." After those thoughts the King fell asleep.

He dreamt that dwarves all over the world were receiving their educations, sharing their ideas; working together so they all could

make a good living. Roar was pleasantly snoring. He woke up to the phones continuous ringing. Jumping safely; out of bed, without landing on his head, the Gnome scurried a little bit worried, picking up the phone and said, "Hi, I am the dwarf man Roar Gnomian the Great Gaugnome."

Still thinking about his nice soft pillow; wondering if his voice was sounding mellow, waiting for a reply, the dwarf heard. "Good morning fine Sir, it's me Trish! I would like to invite you over to my house for breakfast. I enjoy preparing and sharing food with my friends that are not selfish. This morning I'm making cheese omelette, which is a nutritious dish."

Roar knew she had fantastic cooking knowledge from pursuing an education, receiving a Chief Chef's diploma in Edmonton's Community College. The King

responded, "Yes Trish, some day you're going to be an excellent wife for a magnificent guy. Your wonderful intentions deserve honourable mentions and your generosity is A-OK. Unfortunately I cannot come over to your house right away. First I have to take a shower and make up my bed; it will be only a temporary delay. I should arrive at your place at 9 a.m. - okay?"

Trish replied, "That is fine. Please do your best to arrive on time. Now I must say goodbye, you splendid guy."

To Be Continued Written by Rory Gaudon

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Rewritten by Rory Gaudon October 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10th, 2013

Published in Calgary Street Talk Newspaper on Jan, Feb, Mar and July



Merry Christmas and Best Wishes to all for a safe and Happy New Year! Thank you very much all of our Customers, Alberta Street News Staff and all the Contributors, they have made each and everyone of us vendors lives much better. Normally I would not make a Christmas Wish but this year I have decided too. In 2014 we are having an International Street Newspaper Conference in Scotland. This opportunity through sponsorship will enable me to further educate myself in The Street Newspaper Industry and fulfill a childhood dream. As a child I learnt about Nessy the Loch Ness Monster who apparently lives in the Loch Ness Lake in the Scottish Highlands. I have always been fascinated if she really exists or not, watching documentaries about her. This trip is a professional seminar for staff and vendors and a once in life time opportunity for me. I would like to know if there are any personal sponsors or corporate sponsors that would be willing to transfer their air miles or make money donations to our cause in bettering ourselves. If you're willing and able could you please make your contributions to Alberta Street Newspaper Staff, so they can make the administrative arrangements. Thank you for your time and consideration reference this matter. - Rory Gaudon

Mission

Edmonton Street News Society provides a voice, employment and social support to those who need these, and communications perspective dealing with poverty and social justice, by education and communication activities, including publishing a street newspaper.

Values/Beliefs/Guiding Principles

- We believe in being inclusive and encouraging
- We believe that human rights are fundamental to living together
- We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to earn and control their money
- We believe in journalistic and organizational professionalism and integrity
- We believe the public needs to know about the issues of poverty and social justice
- We value community and connecting with others
- We Value passion and determination
- We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to learn, develop and use communication skills

Advertising Opportunity

If you would like to advertise with us for an ad this size contact JOHN GRUNDY:
587.709.0360

****Deadline for advertisements and submissions for the nexy issue is November 15, 2013****